

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 82, Number 55

No Krusty, the world needs laughter, since 1911

Wednesday, January 20, 1993

Shots fired at U of Ottawa building

Police investigating link with threatening phone call, break-ins



BY ROXANNE POULIN

OTTAWA (CUP) — Fortunately no one was hurt in a shooting incident at the University of Ottawa January 16.

Protection Services at the university reported that at about 18h20 on Saturday, shots were fired at Fauteux Hall, Ottawa's law building, breaking several windows. No one was in the immediate vicinity.

Isabelle Thibault, a third-year civil law student, said it was lucky that no one was injured since there are often smokers standing in the Fauteux entrance-way.

Police have since charged 23-year-old Eric Lamoureux of Hull with mischief over \$1000, careless use of a weapon and use of a weapon in the commission of an offense. He appeared in court on Monday

morning.

Since the shooting, police and campus protection blocked off access to the campus. Protection Services stated in a news release that additional staff has been brought in to increase security on campus.

Isabelle Morin, another third-year civil law student, said there was a lot of security on campus Monday but she felt students were not well informed about what had happened.

"The students weren't told anything," she said. "Nothing was said to reassure students — there was no help in that respect."

Morin said instead the whole incident seemed to be brushed aside.

"I found it a bit quick, to arrive on Monday and be told that everything was fine when it only happened on Saturday," she said.

Thibault said it almost seemed

taboo to talk about the incident when she arrived at Fauteux for an afternoon class on Monday.

"I had a three-hour class with two breaks and no one talked about it," she said. "I thought it would be buzzing around the faculty but it wasn't."

Thibault said she felt a little uneasy in the faculty.

"You always think it happens somewhere else, it happened twice in Montréal. Now it happened here," she said. "When I'm in my classes I do think about it."

Ottawa police are investigating a possible link between the shooting and a threatening phone call received by Protection Services at the university just after the shots were fired, said staff sergeant Karl Erfle.

"It's too coincidental that they would get a threat at the same time," said Erfle.

According to Erfle, the caller said, "If there are people that are going to die in Iraq, there are also going to be people dying in Ottawa."

Erfle would not speculate whether escalating conflict in the Gulf could mean more incidents of this nature.

Thibault, however, said she doubts there could be a link and is tired of the incidents being related in the media.

Police are also investigating a series of break and entries at the faculty of law at Fauteux Hall, though they do not appear to be linked to the shooting.

Prevention and investigation chief Hubert Reiter said four offices in the building were broken into and searched over the weekend. Some laser printers were stolen.

Reiter said the break-ins were noticed at 9h on Saturday.

York space research facility director resigns

BY SUSAN O'FLINN

TORONTO (CUP) — One of Ontario's top space research facilities, based at York University, is scrambling to deflect criticism after the sudden resignation of its executive director.

George MacFarlane, executive director of the Institute for Space and Terrestrial Science, resigned after a board meeting last month.

In a speech he gave last March, MacFarlane spoke of his dream of seeing Canada become a major military space power.

According to Joan Wick Pelletier, associate research vice-president at York and an ISTS board member, the board was unaware of MacFarlane's speech until its publication last month, and was very surprised by his comments.

"His comments are in conflict with the institution and are an embarrassment to the institution. They do not accurately reflect the ISTS," Pelletier said.

In his speech, MacFarlane said the Canadian Forces needs to have personnel capable of reading infrared photographs delivered by remote sensing, in order to improve precision bombing.

The institute would be pleased to develop a series of short courses to teach the Canadian Forces to read these images, he said.

MacFarlane was a member of the team which organized the bid to bring the International Space University to York.

Copies of his speech were leaked to the media at the beginning of December.

Ron McCullough, chair of the

board of ISTS, accepted MacFarlane's resignation in a private meeting. MacFarlane resigned, he said, because he felt he had lost the board's confidence.

"George MacFarlane was not fired," said McCullough. "He tendered his resignation and had not undertaken any activity which was contrary to the openly stated research policies of the institute."

A group called York Community Concerned About the Future of York, wrote a letter to York President Susan Mann, calling for an investigation into the institute. As of last week, the president had not replied.

David Noble and Janice Newson, the two professors who wrote the letter, believe MacFarlane was fired.

"It was a failed attempt at damage control," said Noble, "he made public what ISTS was about."

"This illustrates one of the problems with having these groups on campus. It is not an accountable body, through organizations like the York Senate," Newson said.

The institute is one of seven Ontario Centres of Excellence, each of them partnerships between one or more universities and private companies.

Its headquarters are at York, but it works with the Universities of Toronto, Waterloo, Western Ontario and with Humber College of Applied Arts & Technology.

Set up in 1987, it is funded through the Ontario Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and by commercialization of ISTS research and development.

ISTS has promised not to perform classified research and to

publish all its research, in keeping with the policies of its host universities.

It will not, however disclose "key aspects" of the research until after appropriate documentation for patent,

copyright or design has been filed.

"Classified military research does not fit with what our scientists and researchers or our host universities want to do. The research that ISTS

does is research in acquiring knowledge and data, completely scientific," said McCullough.

"Absolutely everything goes into the public literature, and other people then apply it," he said.

Insects overlooked as food

VICTORIA (CUP) — Most people only eat insects accidentally.

But Dr. Richard King, a University of Victoria entomologist, fries up mealworms in garlic and olive oil in his office. And all his students get to try them.

King says Western society doesn't see so-called "creepy crawlies" as a real source of nutrition because of ignorance.

"We think we're such an enlightened society," he says. "But we have so many prejudices."

King says we're blinded to the nutritional potential of insects because we think of them as "hairy, fast, small and elusive."

But insects fed on plant material are a rich source of protein and essential fatty acids. And as for the indigestible exoskeleton, "modern refined diets like a little roughage anyways," King says.

Although insects may contain some traces of pesticides, large amounts would kill them anyway, King says. In any case, insects could be gathered from organic locations.

Insect cultivation is a simple procedure involving only the appropriate temperature and foodstuffs, King says. There is potential for an organic industry



of insect producers.

In fact, the process is so simple, they could be grown in a base-

ment.

And, oh yes, mealworms are high in cholesterol ...

Making the grade

What does your GPA really mean?

BY ELISABETH UNNA

HAVE YOU EVER heard a student announce "I really don't care about grades — my satisfaction comes purely from what I learned in class" without scoffing at the lying fool? Face it, we're all in it for grades.

No matter how much you learn, how much you develop that voice within, a C is still a C on your transcript. No amount of "But I really explored my inner person in this course. I just didn't get on with the prof" will persuade a potential employer to overlook that fact.

We learn early on that the grade is the window to the soul. Upon graduating, we go out into the world with a number and a sheaf of references as proof of our merit. A friend of mine in Vancouver was recently denied a scholarship at UBC because her McGill average is only 82 per cent. Eighty four per cent, she was told, would have made her eligible.

Despite the importance of grades, few people agree on what, if anything, letter grades measure about students. Some question whether grades have any validity at all.

L.D. Weller in *The Grading Nemesis: An Historical Overview and a Current Look at Pass/Fail Grading*,

notes a growing dissatisfaction with the letter grade system in North America throughout the period from 1900-1960.

Letter grades are, says Weller, "an inadequate and often arbitrary means of measuring and evaluating performance."

McGill Anthropology professor Roger Keesing agrees. Known to students for his oft-expressed frustration with the letter grading system, he laments the difficulty of encapsulating the strengths and weaknesses of a student into one number or letter.

"GPA's are so uninformative. They are based on a crude and arbitrary system that loses information along the way... information of exactly the kind that grad schools want."

He also feels it is too easy for professors to hide behind the grades they give out. "Numbers reduce teachers' anxiety — they hide ambiguities at the end," says Keesing.

Grade-fixation

THE LETTER GRADING system also provides a poor motive for learning, says York University professor George Martell, an editor of the critical magazine *Our Schools, Our Selves*.

Martell rejects the idea that competition is necessary for hard work. He views competition as unhealthy.

"The competitive nature of course work destroys the desire to exchange ideas. People steal from others instead of sharing."

Keesing agrees. "Rather than fostering creativity or risk-taking or imagination the letter grading system promotes game-playing strategy and the ability to regurgitate," says Keesing.

Grade-fixation often deters students from the risky investigation of unfamiliar academic territory. Universities should provide students with an opportunity for exploration and experimentation, but the possibility of getting a shitty grade keeps students cautious. Too often, we stick to what we know best, thereby limiting our scope of learning.

Many schools attempted to address the shortcomings of the letter grading system by setting up alternative systems of grading.

Perhaps the most widespread and well known, the Pass/Fail grading system experienced its greatest success during the late 60s and well into the 70s.

"The hypothesis was that a Pass/Fail system would redirect the attention of both the student and the teacher away from grading towards the essence of the work, and learning would be more intrinsically oriented and meaningful," says Weller.

Although the system declined in popularity during the 80s, many universities and colleges in North America still use some type of no-penalty grading. A few, such as University of California in Santa Cruz (UCSC) and Evergreen State

University in Washington run entirely on a Pass/Fail, Narrative Evaluation System.

Instead of grades, students receive written evaluations by faculty members. At Evergreen, students also write self-evaluations at the end of each course.

Keesing, a "founding father" of UCSC, claims the university's evaluation system works. Established in 1965, UCSC's primary mandate was to be experimental, providing a perfect environment for the Pass/Fail system.

"There is not the hope of a snowball in hell of changing the grading system here," says Keesing. "The arteries are too hardened here, people are too concerned about respectability."

Keesing says UCSC students often continue their studies at prestigious institutions. He believes UCSC students are not discriminated against when applying to grad schools, as some might believe, but rather that the student's accumulated evaluations are more helpful to grad schools in assessing the candidates than is the conventional letter grading system.

According to Keesing, UCSC has established good, informative relationships about their evaluation system with other institutions, which contributes to the school's success and good reputation.

This may be the case at UCSC, but elsewhere there is a perceived bias against the Pass/Fail system, says Martell. "Grad schools won't give you credit for Pass/Fail courses. These basically then disappear from your transcript."

Martell, sympathetic to the Pass/Fail arrangement, does not foresee it as a potential reality. He tried to establish some Pass/Fail courses at York, but was unable to get students to support his proposal. Although interested, students were too concerned about how the courses would look on their transcript.

Some grad schools, it would seem, question students' motives behind taking Pass/Fail courses. A 1971 study by Bain, Hales and Rand in *College and University* found that 81 per cent of undergrads taking pass/fail elective courses at Ohio State did so not out of a desire to explore, but in order to provide more study time for important core courses.

But Martell says the prejudice against the Pass/Fail system is unjust. In his opinion, the ideal Pass/Fail course would set the pass mark at 75 per cent, which would actually raise the level of standards from a conventionally graded course.

The key factor in this arrangement is cooperation. "Students would work together to ensure that all maintain the high standard of the course... A Pass/Fail system could only work in the context of highly intellectual work," says Martell.

Does Pass/Fail actually work? For that matter, does letter grading actually work? The debate continues, with no definitive answer to either question. In the mean time, I'm off to my next class. The difficulty and work commitment don't matter, cuz I'm really interested in the material. I swear.

events

The Reddy Memorial Hospital Centre needs volunteers for friendly visiting, mealtime assistants and travel cart. All those interested contact Helen Birmingham at 939-6644.

The Women's Division of State of Israel Bonds is hosting guest speaker Esther Delisle who will speak on Anti-Semitism and Facism in Québec during the 1930s, tonight at 19h30 at the Beth Israel Beth Aaron Synagogue, 6800 Mackle Rd, Côte St. Luc.

The Spanish and Latin American Students' Association is holding a bake sale today in the Bronfman Lobby from 9h to 15h.

The latest schedule for the Film Society: Jan. 21 at 19h30 in FDA Aud., "Sister Act", Jan. 22 at 19h30 in FDA Aud., "Road Kill", Jan. 23 at 19h30 in FDA Aud., "Singles"

Hillel House is holding P.Z.C. Israeli Nights every Wednesday starting tonight with Hebrew from 18h30 to 19h30 and dancing from 19h30 to 20h30. 3460 Stanley St.

The Women's Union is seeking submissions for a new feminist/womanist journal. All original, creative and diverse contributions from ALL women welcome. Deadline: Feb. 1, 1993. Rm. 423. Ext. 6823.

The Redpath Museum invites all interested to the opening of an exhibition entitled "Splendours of the Hive" featuring original prints by Wendy Simon from 16h30 to 18h. 859 Sherbrooke W., 398-4091.

The McGill Outing Club: come escape the urban jungle with us... meeting at 19h30 tonight in Leacock 26.

Students propose Pass/Fail option at McGill

MONIQUE SHEBBEARE, Students' Society vp university affairs, wants to address head-on the restrictions of the letter grade system at McGill by implementing an optional Pass/Fail grading arrangement for elective courses.

Shebbeare and fellow students Jonathan Feldman and Brian Good have drafted a proposal for the new system. Senate voted in December to form a working group to look into the idea.

"The whole idea behind the proposal is to get students to venture out and take electives without the fear of jeopardizing their GPA," says Shebbeare. She hopes a Pass/Fail option might reduce grade anxiety among students.

If the system is implemented, students would have the choice during Drop/Add of selecting either letter grade or Pass/Fail evaluation for elective courses. The professor would not know which students had opted for Pass/Fail, and would grade all work on the same scale. Students would know their final percentage grade, but this number would not appear on official transcripts, nor would it be calculated into the GPA.

To avoid abuse of the option, a 10 per cent rule has been built into the proposal, allowing students only 1 course per year to be evaluated on a Pass/Fail system.

Even if the working group approves the proposal, the chances of it being put into effect before September 1994 are minimal.

If McGill does decide to adopt a Pass/Fail system, will students actually use the system to experiment in other areas of study? Or will the reality of graduate school override the inclination to approach new subjects? Whatever the answer, at least the option will be there.

Shebbeare's proposal, although by no means radical, does demonstrate the desire to find alternative methods of evaluation, and may open the door to change.

— Elisabeth Unna

Au ♥ de Montréal



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Guatemalan refugees return home after 10



BY HASAN KARRAR

Nine Canadian volunteers are part of an international coalition accompanying Guatemalan refugees back to their war-torn homeland following ten years of exile.

A number of Canadian development and solidarity organizations created Project A, (for accompaniment) after representatives of the refugees stated they needed volunteers to accompany them to deter the Guatemalan military from attacking them.

The scorched earth tactics of the military, burning of villages, massacring of civilians and destruction of crops forced the refugees to flee from their homes over ten years ago.

The refugees reached an agreement with the Guatemala's new civilian government last October allowing them to return home.

Despite the new agreement, Caryn Kewell, Project A coordinator in Québec and Ontario, is concerned for the safety of the refugees.

"Although there is now a civilian government in Guatemala, the situation hasn't changed much," said Kewell. "The military is still powerful and there continue to be human rights violations."

Kewell said by accompanying the refugees, Project A plans to ensure a physical presence

which would emphasize the concern of the outside world regarding the safety of the refugees.

The volunteers will remain with the refugees for at least two months and they hope they will be able to use their technical skills to aid the refugees in reestablishing their homes.

"It is expected the volunteers will help in fundraising and increasing awareness about the plight of the refugees," said Kewell.

Kewell said Guatemalan Defence Minister Samayoa insists that the refugees, two thirds of whom are women and children, are mostly guerrilla warriors and they shall be prosecuted on their return.

The safety of the returning refugee convoys is also in question. Kewell cited reports of military bombing in the highland areas where the refugees are headed.

The October agreement gives the refugees the right to return home accompanied by an international delegation.

It also allows them to take possession of their former lands and freedom of movement both inside and outside Guatemala.

The 45 000 refugees have been living in camps in Southern Mexico for the past decade. The first convoy of 2800 refugees is scheduled to leave today. It will take another two years before all 45 000 refugees have reestablished themselves in Guatemala.

Gateway angers Edmonton Jews

University of Alberta paper attacked as anti-semitic

OTTAWA (CUP) — The University of Alberta's student newspaper has refused to apologize for publishing a cartoon that Edmonton Jewish groups call anti-Semitic.

The cartoon, which appeared on the editorial page of the January 5 edition of the Gateway, depicts an Israeli soldier pointing a gun at the Virgin Mary cradling baby Jesus in her arms.

The caption reads "What if... Jesus was born in 1992?"

In the cartoon, the soldier says, "First we had to shoot 3 wise guys trying to cross the River Jordan, and now we find you having an unauthorized gathering past curfew!"

Another caption at the bottom of the panel says, "That ain't very kosher, is it?"

The cartoon was drawn by U of A student Ahmed Hussein, who has contributed about eight drawings to the newspaper since September.

Six complaints relating to the cartoon were filed last week with the university's student council.

"This is purely anti-Jewish," said Sid Indig, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton. "It perpetrates the Christ-killer myth which has even been repudiated by the Catholic Church."

Indig and members of other Jewish groups wanted the Gateway's editor-in-chief, Karen Unland, to apologize to the Jewish community in the newspaper's January 13 edition.

While expressing regret at the



Gateway graphic which has upset Edmonton Jews

community's angry reaction, Unland stated in this week's editorial the cartoon had only meant to criticize Israel's treatment of Palestinians and had been misinterpreted.

The editorial said the paper stands by the cartoonist and his intent in the creation of the cartoon.

Unland said the paper received about 20 phone calls and five or six people who showed up to complain in person.

Student union vice-president Jolanda Slagmolen said Unland and managing editor Malcolm Azania

would be called to appear before the student union's press committee next week.

She said if the committee rules an apology is in order and the newspaper refuses to print one, both editors could be fired.

Ever since the January 5 edition hit newsstands, Unland and her volunteer staff have been overwhelmed by letters and a flood of angry phone calls from irate readers.

"It's very stressful," said

Unland. "Most phone calls have been reasonable, but two or three have been abusive. It's hard to take."

U of A president Paul Davenport slammed the cartoon at a January 8 board of governors meeting, according to the January 9 edition of the Edmonton Journal.

"I find the cartoon to be offensive and not appropriate to an institution which is committed to tolerance and understanding for people of all backgrounds," said Davenport. The board voted to send a letter to the newspaper condemning the cartoon.

York students kicked out of coffee shop for studying

BY PINA D'AGOSTINO

TORONTO (CUP) — If you want to read a newspaper at Company's Coming in York University's shopping mall, go ahead.

But if you want to peruse a paperback novel at the muffin and coffee franchise, forget it, says owner Glenn Plummer.

Students are told to leave if they violate Plummer's policy — studying is not allowed during "peak periods."

Plummer put up table signs this month to outline what literature is permitted in the shop. Textbooks, photocopies, paperback books, binders, and course packages are forbidden.

"The definition of studying is that if it's not a newspaper, it's studying," said Plummer. Plummer said he's been forced to make his year-old "no studying" policy more stringent due to the "unreasonableness and non-consideration of fellow customers."

The new rules have offended some customers.

Yvonne Verajose and July Cairnie, both doctoral English students, were told to leave after they sat down with some papers in front of them.

"I'm disgusted," said Cairnie,

"This is a university, and to ask people not to study is pretty incongruous of what a university is about."

Verajose added that Plummer had a "totalitarian attitude."

"I felt harassed by his actions and voice," she said. "He (Plummer) was shouting, people were looking. He seemed as though he would have used physical force if I had not left."

Plummer said he sat York to serve the community as a whole, not to serve as a study hall because there's plenty on campus.

Another student was upset by the policy.

"I was livid," said Israel Ellis, a fourth-year political science student who was kicked out by Plummer for studying with a group of friends who were all paying customers.

Ellis said he felt "terribly violated". He said the company should "re-read their own signs" stating the new policy because he was there at about 10:30 am, a non-peak time.

But Plummer said he has no true definition of a peak time.

"Peak periods are flexible any day because we understand where we are, in a university campus."

He said students can study at 1:00 on a Friday afternoon if the coffee shop isn't busy.

Mall manager Patricia Phillips said all restaurant owners are allowed to set policy within their own establishments.

"Our intentions are not ever to limit one to study but to encourage people to sit and relax and meet their friends," said Phillips.

But some students say Plummer's policy is driving them away.

"I was a regular. Now I can't even bother to see (Plummer's) face," said first-year psychology student Ellen Mandrapillas who was told to leave for reading an article.

Sami Yehia, manager of a small falafel franchise said he doesn't have a policy posted because he's never had any problems with students.

He said everyone gets half an hour during peak periods and if he's really busy and students are studying he kindly asks them to move to the side counter.

"Problems and confrontations can be averted if the customer is asked politely to leave. I'm pretty sure 99.9 per cent of the customers will understand," said Yehia.

Ellis wants York students to boycott Company's Coming until it publicly declares its policies and writes a public apology to him and others who've been offended by Plummer's "anti-academic" rules.

UNTIL RECENTLY THE harasser's name was Prince Charming — the Knight in Shining Armour who courted you, swept you off your feet, told you that you belonged to him, organised your life, helped you to realise your sometimes wicked ways, and demanded that you live happily ever after.

Whether you wanted to or not.

But happily this is the nineties. So why are there so many Prince Charmings around still treating women as their possessions? Why do movie plots and song lyrics support the Prince Charmings and endorse their behaviour? Why do they condone the treatment of women as objects who are not allowed the power to choose and negotiate relationships that can keep up with the changes that have taken place in other areas of their lives?

These are three true stories about such would-be Prince Charmings and the terror they created in women's lives. Names have been changed to protect people's privacy.

You may recognize these stories. Something similar may have happened to a friend of yours. Maybe it's happening to you.

You will not forget about me

Joan is an undergrad at McGill. Her story takes place in Vancouver, in her last year of high school. She never considered that she was having a relationship with Philip, a classmate. She started to get worried when Philip started isolating her from her other friends, including her current boyfriend.

"I told him I'd never go out with him because I didn't like him that way, and he'd get hurt. He was phoning every day. He wanted to know everything. If I wasn't there why wasn't I there?"

Jessica is also an undergrad at McGill. About two years ago in Montréal she went out with Jamie for four months.

by Katie Pickles

"I never had as strong feelings as he did for me, but I was confused when I went out with Jamie. I was going through a hard time and at the end I tried to break up with him. I said, 'Look, this really just isn't working.' He told me that I was mean. He wanted me to give him one more week. He said he'd be different."

Jamie started to call Jessica constantly, only to say nothing. He would call Jessica at home or work, leaving messages.

"I wouldn't call him back, but he just kept calling. I felt awful about what I had done and I didn't have the insight to think that it was him."

Colleen has also been the victim of harassment by an ex-boyfriend. While she was an undergrad at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland, she met Jason through friends and went out with him for a month at the most. Colleen is now a graduate student at McGill.

After knowing Jason a short time, Colleen began to suspect that he was a very strange person.

"One night after the movies he drove me home. He was driving at around 160 kilometres an hour. I was saying 'slow down would you?' I was terrified. He took a corner too sharp and went into a concrete wall. I said, 'Let me out of the car now. I'll walk home.'"

After that Colleen didn't go out with Jason anymore. That's when he started following her around.

"He knew my entire schedule. When I was given my locker combination he grabbed the piece of paper with the combination on it from me. He knew where I studied, where I hung out, where I had lunch — everything about me. When I came out of a class Jason would be

standing there. He wouldn't look at me, but he'd make sure that I knew that he was there."

Jason would also sit near Colleen while she was studying in the library and just stare. He put a concrete slab, and later a garbage can lid, in her locker.

I Will Haunt You

Joan found dead cockroaches and notes in her locker. Philip also tried to know everything about her and to monitor her every move. He said that if he couldn't be around Joan, there would be no point in him living. Philip played on Joan's guilt of not liking him, and her knowledge of the history of mental illness in his family.

Philip tried hard to become a major part of Joan's life. "He had to be with me all of the time and was turning me against everybody. He told me that as we were the only two people who didn't do drugs, everybody else was bad. Unfortunately, I respected his opinion at the time. He was very manipulative and my life became him."

When Philip found out that Joan was interested in another man he went on a violent rampage — screaming and crying and demanding to know how Joan could do this to him.

"I sat there, totally calm, and he became very abusive until I broke down."

"I think he was having trouble with distinguishing reality. He was telling people that he was my boyfriend and people believed him. He became more and more obsessive. Every second he wanted to know where I was."

Then, on the night of Joan's graduation ball, Philip took Joan's car keys so that she could not drive home. Joan ended up leaving with a friend and went home to her sauna. While Joan was in the sauna, Philip (who has a black belt in judo) climbed into Joan's second

floor bedroom window and into her bed. There he passed out — drunk.

Luckily Joan fell asleep in the sauna and stayed there until the morning. Philip awoke to hear Joan's mother walking around in the house. He called a friend to come to the front door and divert Joan's mother so that he could make his escape. The friend arrived, and Philip jumped out of the window. The housekeeper working in the kitchen saw him fall, and break his foot.

I will get violent with you

Jessica was asleep one night when Jamie called.

"He was very drunk and said that he needed to come over. I'd hang up — he'd call back. He had the key to the outer door of my apartment building and he was fucking knocking at my door. He was going to bash it down so I let him in. He just cried and cried and said that he wanted me back. Then he started his mind games and said that he was going to throw himself in front of a car."

"And I think that I had taken as much as I could take and I said 'get the fuck out of here.' He asked me for one hug and grabbed me. I said let go, it's not funny, but he pushed me down onto the couch and started to hold me back and I freaked out on him punched him. He said he loved me but that's not love to do something like that."

One rainy night after a dance Colleen's sister was driving Colleen and a friend home when Jason started trailing their car.

"He was pulling all of these fancy stunts. He'd pass the car, and then cut back really closely in front of our car and do really stupid things that twice nearly caused us to have a car accident."

Like Jessica, Colleen had had enough.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF OBSESSIVE LOVE

1. GET YOURSELF OUT OF ANY GREY AREA. Clearly tell the person involved what your feelings are and that your relationship is over. When talking be firm, factual and confident. Appear cold and distant and try not to show anger.

If they will not accept what you say and will not leave you alone they are HARASSING you. If this harassment continues:

2. KEEP A RECORD OF ALL CONTACT WITH THE HARASSER. This includes answering machine messages, conversations and notes.

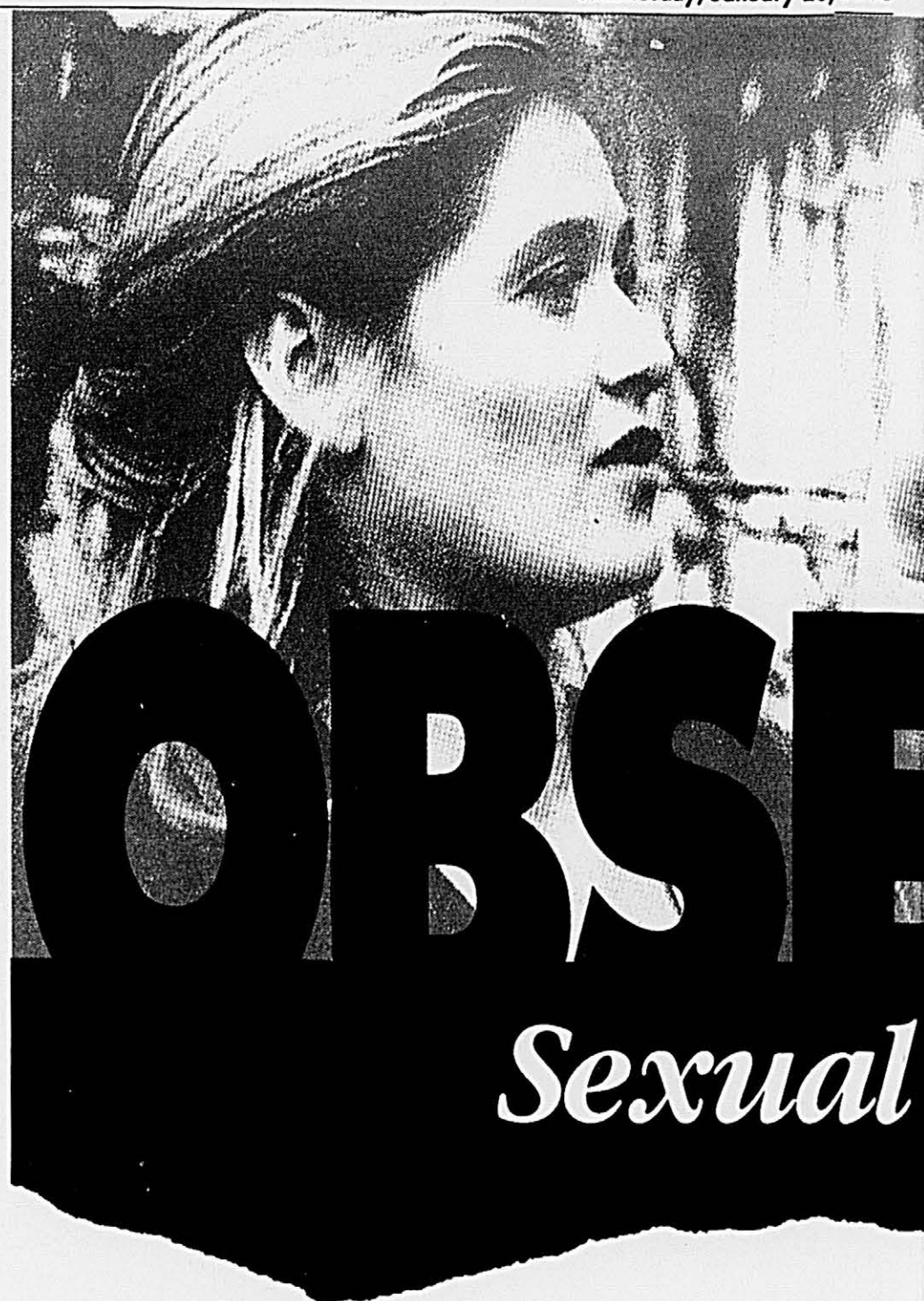
3. ALERT THE POLICE. They can only act if the harasser is in physical proximity to you and will not leave you alone. They can not stop the harasser from walking outside your apartment on the footpath, but if the harasser rings your door bell call the police. They will come around and tell the harasser to stay away. If the harassment continues you can make a police report and take the harasser to court to get a restraining order. This is a lengthy process, but may be necessary if the harasser does not give up easily.

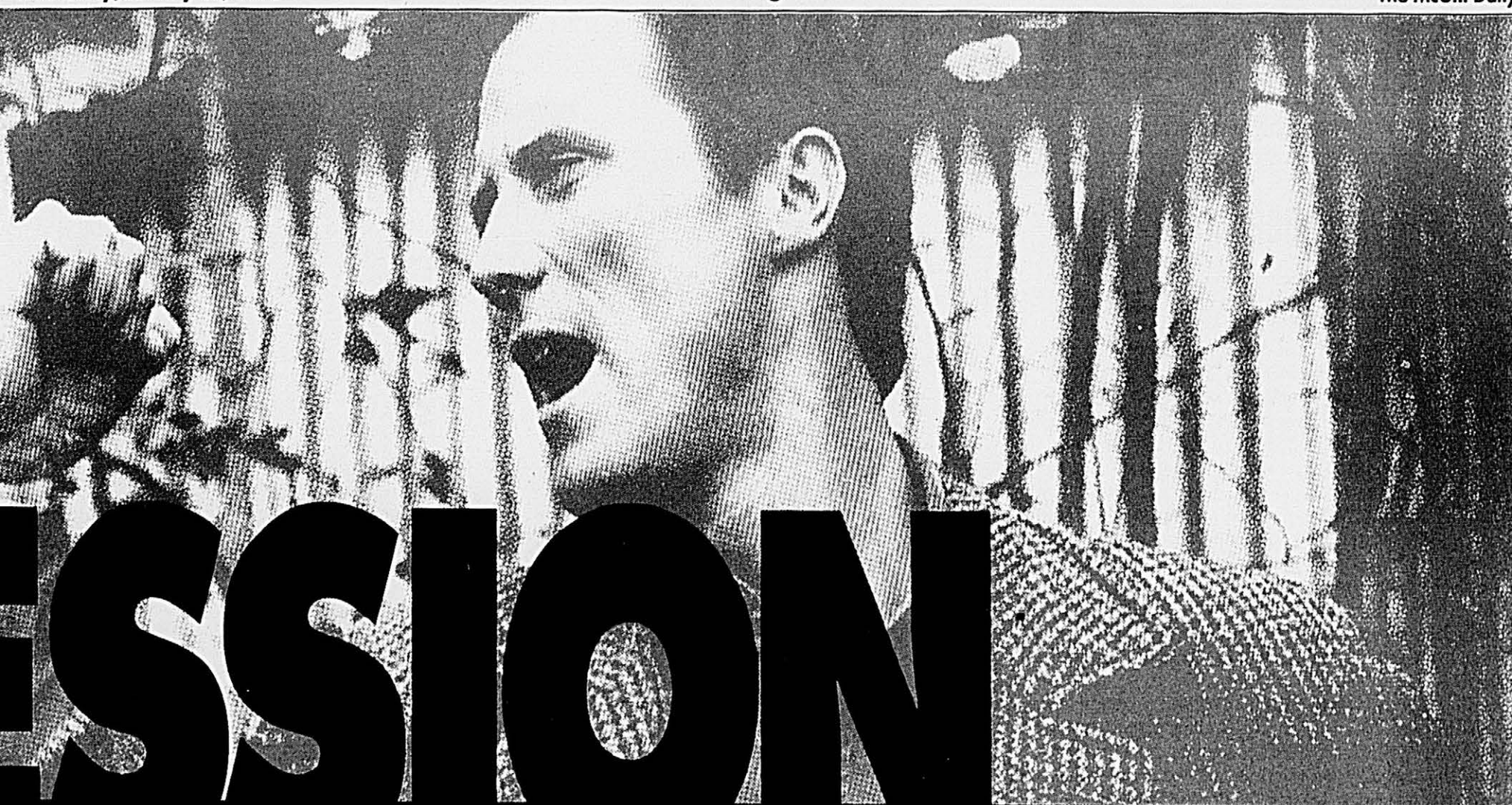
4. CHANGE YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER. A nuisance, but effective in stopping annoying calls.

5. TALK ABOUT THE HARASSMENT TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY. Make sure people know what you are going through. Do not feel embarrassed and do not listen to those who tell you that the episode is 'romantic'.

6. CALL THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT ASSESSORS TO MAKE A COMPLAINT if the harasser is a McGill student, professor or staff member.

7. KEEP AWAY FROM THE HARASSER WHENEVER POSSIBLE. Take extra care with your personal safety. Tell people where you are going. Be in control and be cautious.





SESSION

harassment ain't no fairy tale

**Nothing can stop this thing that we've got,
You've got to know that it's right.
Can't stop this thing we've started,
No way.**

I'm going your way.

— Bryan Adams.

**How can you do this to me,
bitch?**

After Jamie broke into Jessica's apartment, he visited her briefly, only to call her a bitch and act more pitifully than ever. Then at a New Year's party she saw him looking really drunk and depressed.

"He told me that he missed me and that we should get back together again. I left with friends and he followed us down the street — drunk and without a coat on."

Any warm feelings that Jessica may have once had for Jamie had vanished by this point.

"How can somebody go after you like that and call you a bitch? I don't want to be his friend. He's not somebody I want to sit down with. Why should I feel guilty? If he hadn't harassed me I would have thought of being with him again. But because of the way that he handled it I just felt that he was pitiful."

Jessica, who has also had relationships with women, feels that women handle their obsessions differently.

"Women get together with friends and cry. There is never the same power trip. I just can't see a woman breaking into someone's house."

Epilogue

Colleen has since been in a similar situation with somebody who she only dated twice, but who proceeded to try and find out everything about her. He would call and say nothing again and again. He began to follow her around the university. Then he left a note on her locker.

"He was really obsessive. He followed me around and wanted to control me or something. It was really creepy."

Colleen felt physically intimidated.

"He was a big guy. Built like a brick wall, six and a half feet wide, seriously. A huge guy — massive."

Colleen told him that she was too busy to see him. She thinks that he honestly had no idea how much he was frightening her, how

intimidated she felt and how obsessive he was being.

From these stories it is clear that obsessions are not romantic, they are not wanted, and they are not to be taken lightly. They are a bizarre problem that seems to be growing larger all of the time as distressed, selfish, and often violent men try to wield power and play mind games with women who have clearly indicated where a relationship does not exist.

At a time when women are forming different kinds of relationships on their own terms and initiatives, men are trying to stop their empowerment by employing tactics that try to make sure that there is no escape. It's time to realize that women are not possessions. Treating them as such is not acceptable in songs and movies, let alone in real life.

"The next time that he called I talked for at least five minutes solid in a low monologue. And I was speaking very venomously, and I must have sworn like never in my life — 'fucking' this and 'fucking' that and 'I'll fucking kill you.' And I told him what he'd done and how we could have been killed. You know I just freaked out on the phone. All of this must have been going on and I had been frightened, but I hadn't done anything about it really. I was just really pissed off but had ignored it or tried to get around it somehow."

Joan's harassment also reached a violent crescendo. Philip visited Joan after being away for a while. She drove him around and told him that she was seeing someone else. He started screaming and getting very violent in the car.

"He told me that it was all my fault and how could I do this to him? I got away. I knew then to go into hiding. He went to all of my friends' houses looking for me. He was trying to track me down."

"Early the next morning he went to my house. He told my Mom that I was sleeping with everyone. He told my parents that I didn't deserve to live and threatened to kill me. My Mom took me away. She wanted to get a court injunction but I thought that he was going to kill himself."

Joan then came to Montréal to study. She has recently heard through a friend that Philip still talks as if the drama happened yesterday.

THE MCGILL DAILY

comment

Women need not apply

Federal immigration minister Bernard Valcourt's Friday announcement that Canada has no intention of providing refugee status to people facing persecution on the basis of gender is indefensible.

Immigration officials could argue that the U.N. does not include gender on its definition of refugee status, which describes political refugees as having a "well founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion." They could also argue that the Geneva convention does not include gender.

But let's face it. Women suffer all over the globe because of their gender identity first, before other aspects of their political identity comes into play. Women always pay the highest price in society whether in peace or in war.

We only have to look at what's happening to Bosnian women. Not only they are killed and tortured but they are also systematically raped. Moreover, they are made into reproduction machines making babies for Serbia.

If the Geneva convention has not included gender, it is high time. Bosnian women are suffering because of their ethnic identity, but they are paying a much higher price because they are women. When men individually and collectively torture, persecute, rape, harass and kill women, it is not a matter of coincidence or exception.

It's time to include persecution based on gender in the official definition of refugees. A movement to widen the definition to include gender would make women's persecution an internationally recognized problem. At the same time, it would give less legitimacy for any country to violate women's rights.

Accepting victims of sex bias as refugees will expose gender discrimination and cruelty against women not only in accused countries, but it will also put more pressure on the supposedly "host" countries to confront such issues.

The men who drafted the Geneva convention (or Valcourt for that matter) could not see the dangers and fears women face, because they themselves would not be raped or beaten by their wives, or have to comply to a curfew because of their sex. Recognition of the physical cruelty women face on the basis of their gender is not a just matter of social empowerment. For many women it would be the difference between life and death.

By rejecting victims of sex bias, countries like Canada are perpetuating violence and discrimination against women.

Afra Jalabi



hyde park

Sri Chinmoy Peace Delta dedicated

Opinion submitted by Jeffrey Chance.

Site of the fiercest bombing and the most severe casualties of the Vietnam War, the Mekong Delta has now been dedicated to world peace as a Sri Chinmoy Peace Delta. The official ceremony took place on December 28 in Tanan, Long An province, gateway to the Mekong Delta.

Regional Vietnamese leaders Chairman Dr. Nguyen Trung Tin, Chairman Nguyen Van Thanh and Foreign Relations Chief Do Hu'u Lam welcomed international peace ambassador Sri Chinmoy and 100 members of the Sri Chinmoy Peace Centres from all parts of the globe.

Two permanent plaques mark the dedication of the 2.4 million acre agricultural heartland as a Sri Chinmoy Peace Delta. "Everybody knows that the fiercest battles were on our soil," stated Chairman Thanh. "We fought bravely, but at the same time we were longing for peace. Sri Chinmoy has contributed greatly to the cause of peace

for humanity. That is why we appreciate your work and we greet you warmly."

Highlighting the fact that the Mekong Delta serves not only as a painful reminder of war, but also as a living monument to new life, Sri Chinmoy composed a song performed at the ceremony: "Mother Nature's moon-breath strangled and killed by death. Beauty's newborn life and heart give Mekong the God-Start."

The Mekong Delta now joins over 500 "Sri Chinmoy Peace-Blossoms" in more than 30 nations that have been dedicated to the goals of world friendship and peace, including Niagara Falls, the Matterhorn in Switzerland, Lake Baikal in Russia, the cities of Ottawa, Canada and Philadelphia, USA, and the Svinesund Bridge between Norway and Sweden. They offer daily reminders to millions worldwide of our common quest for peace.

Sri Chinmoy has also visited

McGill on a number of occasions. In 1970 and 1984 he gave talks on spiritual themes at McGill, and in 1989 offered a free Peace Concert in the Leacock Building. All occasions were filled to capacity.

With the beginning of the New Year, Sri Chinmoy's traditional message this year (offered at a public Peace Concert last December in New York City's Lincoln Centre) offers newness and hope:

*God is dreaming,
Newness singing,
Oneness blossoming,
Fullness dancing.*

*Hope no more gropes.
Life without slopes.
Splendid depths and heights
Transform bondage-nights.*

erratum

A typo in the January 13 Hyde Park, submitted by Marko Kokic, suggested that the U.S. rather than the U.N. was finally reacting to the Croatian "cry for help". Sorry, Marko.

letters

Please

To the Daily:
re: English Lit 101
Please cancel our subscriptions.
Sincerely,

Alex Usher, Special Student
Chris Alam, U3 Arts

Petition against fundamentalist violence

To the Daily:

I am appealing to the students, staff and faculty at McGill to sign a petition demanding the Indian government to enforce the ban against the BJP and the Shiv Sena, the two religious fundamentalist parties responsible for much of the sectarian violence that has characterized Northern India for the last twelve months.

The rise of the BJP and the Shiv Sena

harbours frighteningly similar elements that accompanied the success of the Nazi party in pre-war Germany.

The BJP and the Shiv Sena are Hindu chauvinists who claim that it is high time that India do away with the Muslim minority. Their love for the Muslims is comparable to the Nazi's fondness for the Jews.

They preach hatred for Muslims in the North and for Christians in the South, both of whom are seen as invaders. The Nazis grass roots efforts were propelled by the 'brown shirts' who went around painting racist signs and stabbing Jews.

The Rashitrya Sevak Sangh is not so different. The Nazis came to power through democratic means. The BJP and Shiv Sena, and the VHP all have seats in parliament (even though they

letters

have been 'banned'). Should elections be called tomorrow, there is little doubt that they could secure at least 170 seats, enough to form a minority government.

This BJP-fuelled fanaticism has translated into increased and prolonged sectarian violence which has, according

to conservative estimates, killed 3000 Hindus, Muslims and Christians in the last two weeks alone (approximately 200 deaths a day).

The BBC reported that in Bombay's recent communal violence, men were being stopped on streets and stripped.

If the man was circumcised (i.e. a Muslim) he was subsequently castrated and then stabbed.

The petition will be circulated this Friday at the Union Building.

Pervez Siddiqui
BComm U2

All readers are welcome to submit letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and telephone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.



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Volume 82
Number 55

Business and Advertising Office: 3480 McTavish, room B-17 Montréal, Québec H3A 1X9 (514) 398-6790
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classified ads

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.

McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person or call 398-6790 - **WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE.**

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3 - Help Wanted

A social service agency is looking for a female role model to live with three young people in an independent living program located in N.D.G. We provide a large private room, a telephone and supervision by a professional. Ideal for student. Contact Donna Roberts 382-0780.

Run your own business next summer! College Pro Painters seeks dynamic, energetic individuals to manage suburban franchises (esp. Beaconsfield & Pointe Claire). Average profit \$9,500. Applications 287-9091 (h), 398-6790 (w), Olga.

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"FRIENDLY SERVICE!" St. Martha's community, based on the early Christian House Church, meets every Sunday, 10:30 a.m., 3521 University. Informal service with dialogue and discussion. Info: 398-4104, McGill Chaplaincy.

7 - For Sale

Kemper snowboard for sale. Nearly mint condition. Call Todd at 934-6155.

11 - Lost & Found

Have you seen my face? Reward offered for information leading to return of portrait of woman's head - 6th floor, Education faculty. Call 989-9798. Leave a message.

12 - Personal

French speaking medical student seeks English speaking student for conversation and to improve language skills. (French-English exchange) Stephanie: 449-4777.

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Audition: Actors needed. M. 18-60 for spring production of *The Lady's Not for Burning*. Call 938-1656

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Independent Researcher is seeking stories from men who have intervened in any way to help someone who was sexually assaulted or sexually harassed. Call 843-3719.

Student Empowerment Fund: Disadvantaged groups (as per Article 2.4 of SSMU constitution) are eligible for funding for projects involving broader Montreal community. Info 398-6801.

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Want to Talk? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) sponsors two discussion groups at the Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer, above Milton, on Fridays. A coming out support group meets at 5:30, and a discussion group meets at 7:30. A great way to find out about yourself and others.

Confused or Curious? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) is restarting peer counselling. Anyone interested in finding out about LBGM or with questions about their sexuality is welcome to drop by Room 417, Shalmer or call 398-6822. Hours are during lunch and 7 to 10, Monday through Friday.

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The Toronto Transit Commission hates it, washroom walls are covered with it, and women at the University of Western Ontario may be arrested for it.

Some people say it's offensive, others are intrigued by it. It can be stupid or artistic, hateful or thought provoking. But for most of us it's just something interesting to look at when we're walking home from school or riding the subway.

IT'S GRAFFITI AND IT'S EVERYWHERE.

Though graffiti is considered vandalism and is illegal under the Criminal Code of Canada, many people do not consider painting or spraying graffiti a crime. A medium easily accessible to the majority of the population, graffiti can be a means of communicating outside the usual, accepted channels.

"There's no place on campus for complete free speech," said Angelina Vaz, a Western student currently embroiled in a dispute with the university administration over her graffiti painting.

"There's no real forum for oppressed groups, so they have to use other ones," she said.

Vaz, a fourth-year English and philosophy student, painted an Audre Lorde quote on a piece of plywood three weeks ago. The quote read: "And I remind myself all the time that if I were to have been born mute, and had maintained an oath of silence my whole life for safety, I would still have suffered and I would still die."

Vaz said there was nothing wrong with writing on the plywood, but now she believes the police may press charges. "I thought we had permission but there's been a misunderstanding," says Vaz.

After having her words sprayed over, Vaz refuses to have her voice silenced. A few days after the original incident Vaz and other students sprayed new slogans and images.

Vaz said it is not important whether or not she gets charged for the incident. She is far more concerned with having a place on campus where she and other students can have an open, uncensored forum to express their views.

NOT JUST THE GOOD FOLKS

Susan Addario, a safety officer at the University of Toronto, said washroom graffiti — specifically the kind that singles out specific men as being rapists — can have an empowering function.

"For women who are denied an effective way of responding to sexual violence through the system, it is a way to express anger," said Addario.

"It is a real and symbolic reminder of how we fail women in our formal and informal systems."

But Addario also said that the university's procedure is to remove the graffiti even if it refers to a possible sexual assault.

"The university is in a position that it must respond by removing it because it targets an individual for a form of retaliation for behaviour that he may not be aware of that he is being accused of," she said.

David Rayside, a political science

professor at U of T, said washroom graffiti is a way of condemning individuals without due process.

"In any form of speech, including graffiti, the issue of harm is a relevant one," he said. "Anyone can use graffiti — not just the good folks."

Clearly, when graffiti involves remarks or slogans which could incite hatred against particular groups, the effects can be quite damaging. This year at U of T, a feminist engineering professor and numerous minority groups were the targets of graffiti attacks.

Rayside said the notion that graffiti is a constructive form of political discourse is a myth.

"In theory, yes, but in practice bullshit," he said. "Over 99 per cent of the graffiti on this campus has nothing to do with communication. It has to do with stereotypes, hate or mindlessness."

SCRUBBING IT OFF

Offensive or not, the writing on the wall can function as an informal forum for expressing opinions. Which doesn't make it either legitimate or effective.

In Toronto, the TTC has a strict policy about graffiti — it gets cleaned up as fast as possible.

"It is part of an ongoing cleaning procedure. Either it looks bad or the wording is offensive," says Marilyn Bolton, TTC spokesperson.

Eric, who asked to have his last name withheld, said that he has graffitied TTC property but does not mind the TTC wiping off the graffiti that he writes.

"If they didn't keep scrubbing it off, I couldn't keep writing it," he said.

**"OVER 99 PER CENT OF THE
GRAFFITI ON THIS CAMPUS HAS
NOTHING TO DO WITH
COMMUNICATION. IT HAS TO
DO WITH STEREOTYPES, HATE OR
MINDLESSNESS."**

Eric and a friend are responsible for writing the word "Moist" around the city. He got his inspiration from the man who has been writing "Fix Signs" all over Toronto.

"Not only is Moist a great word, but it is also a band," he said. Not surprisingly, Eric is in the band.

"We decided to write it everywhere. It's cheap advertising and pretty funny."

Jason Ziedenberg, a member of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) said graffiti can be more than a way to advertise your band cheaply.

"Graffiti shocks you and pulls you in," says Ziedenberg. "I think its function as art is not as important as using it to flash a political message."

Helen Chomolok, coordinator of an anti-graffiti program in the city of Vancouver, disagreed.

"There's very little politically-motivated graffiti in Canada," she said. "'Fuck the system' is not a political message."

Vancouver began focusing on graffiti about four years ago. According to Chomolok, if there is discriminatory graffiti on a public building, it gets top priority in being cleaned up. There even exists an anti-graffiti hotline. Chomolok said that every day there is a city employee cleaning up graffiti somewhere in Vancouver.

U of T has a similar standing procedure with regard to graffiti. If it is racist or homophobic it is removed as soon as it is reported.

"If it is political it is not a priority," said David Neelands, assistant vice-president of student affairs. Neelands also said that although the university is slower to clean up non-offensive graffiti, it still constitutes vandalism.

**BY ANNE BAINS
U OF T VARSITY (CUP)**